

## CLAIMS

1/ An analyte-taking device (20) comprising:

· a tube (21) provided at one end with an analyte-taking element (23);

5       · a plug (24) of a liquid or a powder inside the tube (21); and

· at least one liquid contained in an inside space of the tube separated from the analyte-taking element at least by the plug, the plug being arranged, in use, to be  
10       evacuated together with the liquid towards the analyte-taking element, the liquid being:

· an analyte-taking liquid (L) suitable for facilitating the taking of at least one analyte by the analyte-taking element; or

15       · a reagent suitable for producing an observable reaction in the presence of a determined analyte picked up by the analyte-taking element (23).

2/ A device according to the preceding claim,  
20       characterized by the fact that the liquid is an analyte-taking liquid (L).

3/ A device according to the preceding claim,  
characterized by the fact that the analyte-taking liquid  
25       is selected from the group constituted by: chloroform; ethyl acetate; alcohols; chlorine-containing solvents; acetone; short esters; aqueous solutions of methanol; and solutions of chloroform and ethanol.

30       4/ A device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that the liquid is a reagent.

5/ A device according to the preceding claim,  
characterized by the fact that the analyte-taking element  
35       (23) is pre-impregnated with an analyte-taking liquid.

6/ A device according to any preceding claim,  
characterized by the fact that the analyte-taking element  
(23) is porous, and in particular fibrous.

5 7/ A device according to any preceding claim,  
characterized by the fact that the analyte-taking element  
(23) is selected from the group constituted by: a cotton  
bud; a foam bud; a flocked bud; a felt tip; and a tip  
made of ceramic or of sintered material.

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8/ A device according to any preceding claim,  
characterized by the fact that the liquid of the liquid  
plug (24) is selected from the group constituted by:  
mineral oils; fluorine-containing substances; and  
15 silicones.

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9/ A device according to any one of claims 1 to 7,  
characterized by the fact that the plug (24) comprises a  
powder selected from the group constituted by: powders of  
20 copolymer microspheres, of Nylon<sup>®</sup>, of waxes, of silicas,  
and of silicones.

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10/ A device according to any preceding claim,  
characterized by the fact that the inside space of the  
25 tube (21) is defined, at its end remote from the liquid  
or powder plug (24) by a portion (22) that can be broken  
off, removed, perforated, or deformed.

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11/ A device according to the preceding claim,  
30 characterized by the fact that it includes an element for  
holding the break-off portion (22) to the analyte-taking  
device after it has been broken off.

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12/ A device according to any preceding claim,  
35 characterized by the fact that the volume of liquid  
contained in the tube (21) lies in the range 0.01 ml to  
5 ml, and preferably in the range 0.05 ml to 1 ml.

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13/ A kit for taking and analyzing an analyte (20), the kit comprising:

- at least one analyte-taking device (20) comprising:
  - a tube (21) provided at one end with an analyte-taking element (23);
  - a plug (24) of a liquid or a powder inside the tube (21);
  - at least one analyte-taking liquid (L) contained in an inside space of the tube separated from the analyte-taking element at least by the liquid or powder plug, the analyte-taking liquid being suitable for facilitating the taking of at least one analyte, the plug (24) being arranged in use to be evacuated together with the analyte-taking liquid (L); and
  - a reagent suitable for producing an observable reaction in the presence of the analyte picked up by the analyte-taking element.

14/ A kit according to the preceding claim, characterized by the fact that it comprises a box (11, 12) including at least one compartment (13) in which at least one analyte-taking device (20) is housed.

15/ A kit according to claim 13, characterized by the fact that it comprises at least one packaging bag (35, 33) containing at least one analyte-taking device.

16/ A method of detecting the presence and/or the concentration of at least one analyte at the surface of a tissue of an individual, the method being characterized by the fact that it comprises the following steps:

- providing an analyte-taking device (20) comprising a tube (21), a plug (24) of a liquid or a powder inside a tube, at least one analyte-taking liquid (L) contained in an inside space of the tube defined at a first end by the

liquid or powder plug, and an analyte-taking element at one end of the tube, separated from the analyte-taking liquid by the liquid or powder plug;

5       · opening the tube (21) so as to allow the analyte-taking liquid to leave the tube, the liquid or powder plug (24) being suitable for being evacuated together with the analyte-taking liquid (L);

      · taking at least one analyte with the analyte-taking element; and

10       · putting the analyte into contact with a reagent suitable for producing an observable reaction in the presence of said analyte or in the presence of a determined concentration of the analyte.